

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/805,732

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

Applicant(s)

LOVE, JOHN S.

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/8/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 12, 13, 17 and 18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Mr. Jeffrey Proehl, Reg. No. 35987 on 6/29/06.**

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 3 line 17, "a fourth directional arrow, the fourth directional arrow ~~[[an]]~~ on the display"

Claim 6 line 9, "and wherein the multiaxial hinge assembly ~~[[farther]]~~ further comprises a second"

Claim 9, line 9, "rotation orthogonal to the first axis, ~~[[he]]~~ the pivot comprising two opposing," line 35, "centered thereon, the stop assembly comprising a counterclockwise ~~[[slop]]~~ stop," line 37, "pocket and a clockwise stop pocket adapted ~~[[lo]]~~ to engage the stop post when the," line 45, "wherein a rotation of the pivot platform to ~~[[he]]~~ the clockwise limit causes" & line 53, "display window to display a direction of rotation to a user in order ~~[[lo]]~~ to avoid"

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action dated 3/8/06 is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of the office action of 3/8/06 is withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-9,12 &13,17 & 18 are allowed.

The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance. The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in independent claims 1-9,12,13,17 & 18, and at least in part because claim 1 recites: "a surface rotatable about the first axis and comprising a display window; and a display surface underlying the surface rotatable about the first axis, the display surface comprising a first directional indicator indicating a counterclockwise rotational direction and positioned to be revealed in the display window when the multiaxial hinge assembly is rotated substantially to the clockwise limit, and a second directional indicator indicating a clockwise rotational direction and positioned to be revealed in the display window when the multiaxial hinge assembly is rotated substantially to the counterclockwise limit," claim 4 recites: "a display surface substantially centered on and normal to the first axis, comprising a first rotational directional indicator positioned along a first radius of the first axis at a first radial distance, and a second rotational directional indicator positioned along a second radius of the first axis at substantially the same distance as the first radial distance; and a first display window overlying the display surface dimensioned and adapted to selectively display the first and second directional indicators therethrough; wherein a

Art Unit: 2835

rotation of the pivot platform to the clockwise limit enables the first directional indicator to be displayed in the first display window and a rotation of the pivot platform to the counterclockwise clockwise limit enables the second directional indicator to be to be displayed in the first display window," claim 10 recites: "an indicator to provide an indication to user to avoid an incorrect rotation about the first axis and an actuator means to provide a signal corresponding to a rotational direction of the hinge assembly and indicator means operatively coupled to the actuator means to provide an indication to a user of the rotational direction," and claim 12 recites: "a method of providing an indication to a user of a direction of rotation about a first axis of a multiaxial hinge assembly that enables rotation about at least two orthogonal axes," claim 17 recites: "the arrow is revealed in a window positioned on a surface of a multiaxial hinge assembly." The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 1,4 & 12 are believed to render the claims 1-9,12,13,17 & 18 and all claims dependent therefrom patentable over the art of record.

US 6275376 B1 to Moon is considered a close reference to the instant application. Moon disclosed a multiaxial hinge assembly (25) capable of rotation, a first axis (21) and a second axis (23), but is silent as to an indicator of rotational direction.

US 20040203532 A1 to Mizuta is considered a close reference to the instant application. Mizuta disclosed a hinge assembly (300) capable of rotation, but is silent as to an indicator of rotational direction.

Art Unit: 2835

US 20050181846 A1 to Taneya et al. is considered a close reference to the instant application. Taneya et al. disclosed an indicator of rotational direction (47b) (in an open or closed direction as, but is silent as to an indicator indicating a clockwise or a counterclockwise rotational direction as claimed in the instant application.

None of the cited references either alone or in combination is believed to render the present invention unpatentable as claimed.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2835

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

IDW


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